

AARON H. PALMER.

[To accompany Bill S. No. 111.]

APRIL 20, 1860.

Mr. TAPPAN, from the Committee of Claims, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred Senate bill No. 111, "for the relief of Aaron H. Palmer," have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report:

That in January, 1848, at the request of the honorable Robert J. Walker, then Secretary of the Treasury, the claimant came to Washington and laid before the government certain manuscript documents he had prepared relative to the independent oriental nations, and more especially Japan, and their capacities for a profitable American commerce. Subsequently, Mr. Palmer was employed by the honorable J. P. Kennedy, then Secretary of the Navy, to prepare information and instructions for the North Pacific exploring expedition. This information included fourteen different documents, one alone, covering four hundred and sixty pages of foolscap, with an illustrative map. The evidence also shows that to Mr. Palmer is due the origin of the Japan expedition, which has lately terminated so happily in a treaty of amity and commerce with that empire. He planned the expedition and furnished Commodore Perry with his instructions and information. The commodore received a gratuity, at the hands of Congress, of twenty thousand dollars. Mr. Palmer has never received one cent. He has also furnished our government, from that time, with a constant fund of rare and valuable information acquired by years of toil and hard study, and which has shaped our commercial relations with Persia and other oriental nations, for which he has received no compensation. The bill from the Senate allows the claimant (\$3,000) three thousand dollars, and although your committee deem this a very inadequate compensation for the services, they report it back without amendment, and recommend its passage.

